

Lemington Town Meeting

March 7, 2017

Prior to the town meeting, Representative Paul Lefebvre arrived and was welcomed to speak at 7:44 pm. He stated that Act 46 would not be repealed and that it needs to be "tweaked". He mentioned Phil Buruth, Chair of Senate Education, and Senator Bobby Star are aware of our issue. David Sharp advised Mr. Lefebvre to write a bill to try to amend Lemington's problem, but he doesn't feel this bill is going to go anywhere. Myra Ellingwood asked what can we do to go forward right now. Mr. Lefebvre feels we should do nothing at this time. He thinks we need to "look at another vehicle" to find another way. Sharon Ellingwood mentioned how we are the "black eye" of Vermont, with the highest tax rate in the state. Chris Masson was also present and asked for permission to speak as he is not a resident of Lemington. He mentioned the school lots designated at the time of Lemington's charter. Mr. Lefebvre wasn't aware of this and would have to look into it further. Myra Ellingwood thanked Representative Lefebvre for stopping in to see us.

Chris Masson additionally reported that Norton had voted Yes to the merger and Granby did the same with a 21 Yes 1 No vote.

Murray Duke called the Town Meeting to order at 8:19 pm. 21 Registered voters were present, one resident via-speaker phone and three non-residents.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a moderator to govern such meeting. Joe Daley, Jr. nominated and Charles Patterson seconded Murray Duke as moderator of said meeting. He was elected unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of the town officers.

The voters were allowed time to review the reports.

Discussion: Joseph Daley Jr. asked Joseph Daley III to give a forestry report. Joseph Daley III: Landvest manages the land lots in Lemington. We harvested the back side of the mountain last winter, which was almost \$13,000.00. We harvested from the front side of the mountain which was almost \$25,000.00 to the town. Behind Chuck's house, we harvested wood from that town lot which was almost \$16,000.00. This gives a grand total of \$54,000.00. We still have about \$6000.00 more to come in. He estimates roughly 90 loads of wood were harvested. Lemington averaged \$50 per cord, which is excellent in this market. Lucie Daley mentioned to view page 28 of the town reports in the trustee account, which shows the stumpage.

Sharon Ellingwood asked if we keep balance in an account or do we use it. Lucie Daley explained what we used money previously, for example when we purchased the Raymond White lot.

Myra Ellingwood mentioned an upcoming presentation at the Silvio Conte Center, "Vermont 14th Star", sponsored by GNWCA which features Essex Co. It will be presented May 19-20, 2017.

David White asked Joseph Daley III if he did mowing at the cemetery by donation, and we feel he should be reimbursed. Joseph Daley III said he was not worried about it. David White said it is appreciated.

Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, Charles Patterson seconded to accept the reports as written. The reports were unanimously accepted as written.

ARTICLE 3: To raise and appropriate \$40,000.00 for the maintenance of highways. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, Charles Patterson seconded. The article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 4-14: Joseph Daley Jr. made a motion to suspend the rules for articles 4-14 as one in order to raise \$2684.00, seconded by Charles Patterson.

Charles Patterson raised the concern that we are paying NVDA (Article 9) too much money. He made the motion to amend from \$500.00 to \$100.00, seconded by Elizabeth Patterson. The amendment passed unanimously to reduce payment to NVDA to \$100.00.

Joseph Daley, Jr., made a motion to cease discussion seconded by Charles Patterson. The remainder of the articles passed unanimously totaling \$2284.00.

ARTICLE 15: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$125.00 for the North Country Community Recreation Center. Joseph Daley, Jr. made the motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. Discussion: Liz Patterson asked if you had to pay to use the facility, Lucie Daley stated it was by donation. Charles Patterson made a motion for discussion to cease, seconded by Joseph Daley, Jr. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the support of the Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion to raise \$250.00 seconded by Sharon Ellingwood. Discussion: Myra Ellingwood and Joseph Daley, Jr. invited Heather Robinson from Essex County Natural Resources to speak. Heather: ECNRCD helps the town of Lemington acquire \$20,000.00 from the Better Back Roads Grant. This helped your Road Agent perform needed road work on Todd Hill. She thanked the town for the donation because it helps with the grant process. Charles Patterson made a motion for discussion to cease seconded by Joseph Daley, Jr. The motion carried for discussion to cease. The article was passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the support of the Colebrook Fire Department. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. Discussion: Joseph Daley, Jr. mentioned it was \$500.00 more than last year. Sharon Ellingwood asked if they had requested it. Joseph Daley, Jr. confirmed they had asked for it. Charles Patterson made the motion to cease discussion, seconded by Liz Patterson. The article passed unanimously.

- ARTICLE 18: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Colebrook Kiwanis Fourth of July fireworks. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. The article passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 19: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for maintenance the town's cemeteries. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. Discussion: Joseph Daley III stated that one stone was fixed last year. He had gotten a quote from the previous person who worked on the stones and was quoted \$2500.00. We asked Hicks Hardware for a quote and they quoted and fixed the stone for \$300.00 Sharon Ellingwood mentioned that Joe III should be getting reimbursed for mowing. Joseph Daley III stated that he was paid. It was asked how much was in the cemetery fund, Lucie Daley said read page 28 of the town report in the general fund. We spent the money but we didn't transfer it from savings back to checking. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion for discussion to cease, seconded by Charles Patterson. The article passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 20: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to provide for future emergency services such as fire or other disasters. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. Discussion: David White asked if that money goes into the general fund. Lucie Daley stated that it does go into the ledger and keeps a running tally in the reports. Myra Ellingwood asked what those funds are used for. Lucie Daley stated they are used for fire or rescue, for example the fire at Norm Tallmage residence, it helped for that fire. Sharon Ellingwood wanted to know whose expense it covered. Charles Patterson stated that Lucie could keep 20% if she recovered the fund. We have tried recovering the money from insurance companies. Lucie collected 3 out of 10 over the past years. Charles Patterson made a motion for discussion to cease, seconded by Liz Patterson. The article passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 21: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$100.00 for the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Charles Patterson made a motion, seconded by Liz Patterson. Discussion: Charles mentioned he had seen a sheriff on Sims Hill the night before and Murray Duke said they had seen a sheriff twice on Todd Hill. Charles Patterson made a motion to cease discussion, Joseph Daley, Jr. seconded. The article passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 22: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 for the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Myra Ellingwood. Discussion: Joseph Daley, Jr. stated that this group was the boys and girls who worked on the tower trail. Todd Nichols stated the camp and the center work together on these kinds of projects. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion for discussion to cease seconded by Charles Patterson. The article passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 23: To choose a Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term. Lucie nominated Mary Jane Walker, seconded by Joseph Daley, Jr. Mary Jane Walker was elected unanimously.

ARTICLE 24: To raise \$46,400.00 for the Town General Fund. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Patterson. Discussion: David White asked will that number be different because we changed the previous article. Joseph Daley, Jr. made a motion for discussion to cease, seconded by Charles Patterson. The article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 25: Voters elected necessary town officers.

Town Clerk:	Beth Ellingwood	2017-18
Selectmen:	David White	2017-20
Listers:	Daniel Walker	2017-20
First Constable:	Charles Patterson	2017-18
Grand Juror:	Dawn Duke	2017-18
Town Agent:	Todd Nichols	2017-18
Auditors:	Tim Frizzell	2017-18
	Jeanne Daley	2017-18
Oversee of the poor:	Selectmen	2017-18
Trustee Public Funds:	Selectmen	2017-18
Cemetery Commissioners:	Murray Duke	2017-18
	Joseph Daley III	2017-18
	Peter Daley	2017-18
	Charles Patterson	2017-18
	Myra Ellingwood	2017-18

ARTICLE 26: To conduct any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Lucie Daley wanted to recognize two longtime residents of town who had passed away this year; Charles Willey and Rita Cross.

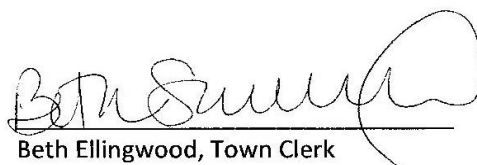
Myra Ellingwood wanted to thank Lucie Daley for her 10 years of service as town clerk.

Christine Gilbert would like to do something with the time capsule. Christine suggested we could to close the capsule and put it in the old school house or make a final day to bury it. Joseph Daley, Jr. said this was a good point and he will donate the excavation.

Charles Patterson thanked Murray Duke for doing a good job.

Charles Patterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Joseph Daley, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.


Beth Ellingwood, Town Clerk